The work thus well begun in the autumn was carried on in the spring with the utmost energy, despite all difficulties. Every fit man, and nearly every unfit man in the countryside was out and at work whenever the weather made farming operations possible. On 2ist May, 1918, Sir Arthur Lee wrote me a letter accompanying his Interim *Interim Report* Report on the results of the Food Pro-*Campaign* Auction Campaign, 1917-1918, in which he remarked : "I hope you will find them satisfactory. At any rate, they wipe out the losses of 40 years in 15 months."

The Interim Report gave results of a Census of 2 yth April, 1918, covering England and Wales, which showed the total acreage under corn and potatoes to be larger by 2,142,000 acres than the 1916 level. There was an increase in the acreage under each cereal crop, and in that under potatoes. The wheat area was the highest recorded since 1882 ; that for oats the highest on record by 20 per cent. ; that for potatoes, also the highest on record, by 27 per cent.

The increase in the tillage area was, of course, still greater, because crop rotation compelled a good deal of arable land to be under other crops. The report stated that :—

Increase in tillage area

". . . It is estimated that a total addition of not less than 2,500,000 acres to the tillage area of England and Wales (as compared

with 1916) has now been made.

The foregoing figures indicate that the total acreage in the United Kingdom under wheat, barley and oats, in 1918, will be the highest ever recorded in the history of British agriculture.